(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	(ii) *Other American and Caribean Countries*		
	(a) Guyana	5	204
	(b) Mexico	313	1002
	(c) Trinidad & Tobago	236	1033
5	*East European Country*		
	(a) Romania	6375	11009

Excise duty on products manufactured by the small sector

2979. SHRI M. BASAVARAJU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to change the slab system of excise duty on various products manufactured by the small scale sector, which was introduced on the persistant demand made by the Federation of Associations of Small Industries of India; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what are the reasons for effecting the change?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) There is no proposal to change the slab system of excisee duty concessions in respect of products manufactured by units in the small scale sector under consideration of the Government at present.

(b) Does not arise.

Trade with China and Pakistan

2980. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state what steps are being taken by Government to expand trade with China and Pakistan during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Some of the steps being taken by the Government to expand trade with China and Pakistan are:—

CHINA

1. The Governments of Republic of India and the Peoples' of China signed a Most Favoured Nation-Trade Agreement on 15th August, 1984 to promote bilateral trade.

2. A trade protocol has been signed by the two Government on 23rd November, 1985 which envisages a level of about US dollar 100—160 million in the two-day trade during 1986.

3. Trade delegations are being exchanged at official and priavtee level and participation in trade fairs is being encouraged.

PAKISTAN

Government is discussing with Pakistan appropriate measures to remove restrictions in the Pakistan Import Policy on their Private Sector importing Indian goods, which constitutes the main obstacle to expansion of Indo-Pak trade and is discriminatory in terms of the GATT. It is also discussing substantial expansion in commercial exchanges of items whose import is canalised through the public sectors in the two countries.

Reduction of duty on polyester fibre

2981. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the situation arising out of the Notification issued in September, 1985 where by the

duty on polyester fibre was reduced from Rs. 45 per Kg. to Rs. 25 per Kg.;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the Maharashtra Government has urged the Central Government to review the matter as it is affecting the powerlooms in the State; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) The situation is under constant watch of the Government. Benefits of duty reduction on polyester staple fibre have generally been passed on by the manufacturers to the users of the fibre. Prices of fabrics using the fibre have also shown a decline in the recent past.

(c) and (d) Maharashtra Government have written to the Central Government saying *inter alia* reduction in duty on polyester fibre without any corresponding reduction in duty on synthetic filament yarn has affected powerlooms in their State adversely. The polyester filament yarn prices have shown a declining trend recently.

Taking over of sick textiles mills in Maharashtra

2982. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the sick textiles mills in Maharashtra taken over by Government in 1983;

(b) whether it is a fact that these mills have not yet resumed normal functioning;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) what is the number of workers in these mills at present;

(e) whether Government propose to nationalise all these textile mills in order to restore normal working;

(f) if so, by when and if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(g) what relief has been or is being given to the workers of these mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) The names of the 13 Textile Undertakings, whose management was taken over pending nationalisation by Government in 1983 are given in the statement attached (*See* below.)

(b) and (c) The 13 mills have reached normal functioning commensurate with the condition of machinery.

(d) As on 31st October, 1985, there were 21,635 workers employed in these mills.

(e) The takeover of management of all 13 mills was pending nationalisation.

(f) It is not possible to indicate any specific date in this regard.

(g) The current engagement of workers is commensurate with the present utilisation of capacities. An amount of Rs. 372.74 lakhs has been paid as gratuity to the superannuated workmen.

Statement

1. Elaphinstone Spg. & Wvg. Mills.
2. Finlay Mills.
3. Gold Mohur Mills.
4. Jam Manufacturing Mills.
5. Kohinoor Mills No. 1.
6. Kohinoor Mills No. 2.
7. Kohinoor Mills No. 3.
8. Shri Madhusudan Mills.
9. New City of Bombay Mfg. Mills.
10. Podar Mills.
11. Podar (Process).
12. Shree Sitaram Mills.
13. Tata Mills.

Examination of safety measures in Chemical Factories in Delhi

2983. SHRI N. E. BALRAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of gas leakage from Sriram Food and Fertilizer Factory in